



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY AUDIT COMMITTEE  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 864  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2016**

**2:45 PM**

AUDIO (16-3296)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Present: Taylor Dudley, Emily Williams, Michelle Newell, Genie Chough and Michelle Vega

Absent: James A. Blunt, Vice Chair Dorinne Jordan, Member Kieu-Anh King, Member Carl Gallucci, and Member Fred Leaf

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order. (16-2208)

**The meeting was called to order by Taylor Dudley at 2:54 p.m.**

2. Approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 4, 2016. (16-2209)

**On motion of Genie Chough, seconded by Michelle Newell, this item was approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Department Success Stories. (16-2210)

**Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported on improvements made by contractors: Hathaway-Sycamores and Hamburger Home Foster Family Agency's scored 10 out of 11 in the contract compliance review; Latino Family Institute scored 4 out of 5 in fiscal compliance assessment; and Orange County Children's Foundation had no findings in their 2015-16 fiscal compliance assessment along with notable improvements with contract compliance.**

Kym Renner, DCFS, reported that upon review of the not yet released reports, most contractors are showing much improvement and scoring very well especially in the quality assurance reviews.

Karen Richardson, DCFS, reported that June 7, 2016, was a celebration day honoring graduating students from High School, this event was very successful.

Pamela Pease, Probation, reported that Probation recently taped a series of three television commercials to promote recruitment of foster parents, one has aired and another will follow after being edited. The commercials will play on Time Warner Cable channels such as ESPN, Oxygen, OWN, and other female geared audience channels.

In response to questions posed by the Committee, Ms. Pease and Ms. Renner explained about the impressive media packages, and how the programming can target a specific audience. Ms. Renner also added that while she was at Probation a similar package was prepared for officer recruitment, however they did not move forward with the package, she has shared the information with DCFS for consideration.

The Committee commended Probation for their advanced steps with media coverage for recruitment of foster parents, and expressed their interest in viewing the series of three commercials.

## **II. REPORTS**

4. Positive Path Youth Development Center - A Department of Children and Family Services Group Home Contract Provider - Fiscal Compliance Review (2/29/16). (16-2192)

In response to questions posed by the Committee regarding the location of this Group Home (GH), Aggie Alonso, Auditor-Controller (AC), provided clarification and explained that where services are provided is what determines the location. Mr. Alonso reported that this GH has surrendered their license, Senate Bill No. 84 is in place, and following due process will be placed on the Contractor Alert Reporting Database (CARD).

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.

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**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - A-C REPORT](#)

5. Bienvenidos Children's Center - A Department of Children and Family Services Provider - Fiscal Compliance Review (3/7/16). (16-2313)

**Taylor Dudley, First District, posed questions regarding monies due and whether there has been repayment. Elaine Boyd, Auditor-Controller, reported that payment was received, cost reports were adjusted, and all monies owed have been repaid.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - A-C REPORT](#)

6. Dream Home Care, Inc. Group Home Quality Assurance Review (03/10/16). (16-2171)

**Genie Chough, Third District, posed questions about the scoring in the area of safety. Rhonda David-Shirley, Department of Children and Family Services explained that the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) addressed 2014/2015 Safety Incident Reports (SIR) that were incomplete and not timely submitted. However, since safety concerns are addressed in the Contract Compliance Review, this Group Home (GH) is expected to score higher at its next review.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

7. Dream Home Care Group Home Contract Compliance Review (3/25/16). (16-2198)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

8. Luvlee's Residential Care, Inc. dba New Dawn Group Home Quality Assurance Review (3/11/16). (16-2172)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

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9. Hannah's Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (3/11/16). (16-2719)

**Taylor Dudley, First District, posed questions regarding the evaluation of Foster Family Agency's (FFA) when there are several locations. Rhonda David-Shirley, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), explained that a number of placements from each location are interviewed to comprise an overall general evaluation of the FFA.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

10. Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services Group Home Contract Compliance Review (3/11/16). (16-2173)

**Taylor Dudley, First District, posed questions regarding the details surrounding a Group Home (GH) with vacancies, and the financial impact experienced by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Diana Flaggs, DCFS, explained that DCFS payments are determined by the rate classification for each placement that spends the night at a GH. Kym Renner, DCFS, indicated that Temporary Foster Care (TFC) facilities have an operational rate that DCFS pays regardless of placements, unlike GHs.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

11. Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (3/18/16). (16-2184)

**The Committee expressed concern with the Safety Incident Reports (SIR) regarding expired food, therapeutic services not provided, recommended assessments and evaluations not implemented, and the overall improvement of this Foster Family Agency (FFA). Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) explained that foods, whether perishable, are expired after the expiration date printed on the package, and although some foods may be consumed a day after the expiration date, this is not acceptable and are expected to be disposed of. Kym Renner, DCFS, also explained that due to content within the contract, monitoring expiration dates is required by the FFA.**

**Ms. Flaggs, DCFS, also explained that this FFA has experienced changes**

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with their administrative staff that may have contributed to these rare incidents in the program; however, the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) is expected to be successful. Karen Richardson, DCFS, indicated that this FFA is in transition and in preparation towards Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

Genie Chough, Third District, expressed concerns regarding the area of service provisions, these are high level issues, and suggested centralizing alerts that clearly identify these issues for better focus.

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

12. Five Acres the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles County - A Department of Children and Family Services Residentially Based Services Program Provider - Fiscal Compliance Review (3/14/16). (16-2314)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - A-C REPORT](#)

13. Hillside - A Department of Children and Family Services Residentially Based Services Program Provider - Fiscal Compliance Review (3/14/16). (16-2315)

On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - A-C REPORT](#)

14. Hillside Group Home Contract Compliance Review (3/25/16). (16-2199)

Michelle Newell, Second District, posed questions regarding the score in the personal rights and social well-being categories, in which placements were not allowed to attend religious services, and the youth not having knowledge that they are allowed to refuse medical, dental, and psychiatric services. Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) explained that an individual wanted to attend a church facility that has requested youth attendees to be accompanied by an adult; the youth refused to be accompanied and believed that privileges were taken away since there was refusal to take medication along with non-acceptance of medical services. Ms. Flaggs also explained that this score is a reflection of only one individual that requires additional supervision when not medicated. Also, the Group Home (GH) does participate with the

teen-youth to plan their extracurricular activities. The GH has experienced program changes, changes in management, and common issues have been addressed with recent visits and global meetings. The average length of stay is 6 months, and monitoring is ongoing.

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

15.    Hamburger Home DBA Aviva Family and Children's Services Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (3/14/16). (16-2174)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

16.    Holy Family Services Adoption and Foster Care Family Agency Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/14/16). (16-2175)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

17.    Latino Family Institute Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/14/16). (16-2176)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

18.    Deliann-Lucile DBA Delilu Achievement Group Home Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/14/16). (16-2177)

**In response to questions posed by the Committee regarding disbursements of small amounts of money, the average length of stay, and whether a hold was ever placed, Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), went on to explain that checks issued among administration as well as family members is a common practice with small operations. A loan for expansion was also noted, however, this Group Home (GH) has been advised of the check writing policy and monitored since the fiscal training provided in January 2016. The average length of stay was impacted due to a request to accommodate emergency shelter placements.**

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**Karen Richardson, DCFS, indicated that a hold on the shelter care program was removed 3 months ago. The up and coming compliance review will better indicate the average length of stay.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 19.**    Orange County Children's Foundation Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/14/16). (16-2178)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 20.**    Orange County Children's Foundation Group Home Contract Compliance Review (4/4/16). (16-2206)

**Michelle Newell, Second District, posed questions regarding the lack of follow up on issues of education, truancy, medical, and dental services. Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that current reviews show improvements, findings are localized towards the Placentia facility and meetings with the executive director and group home administrator are expected to resolve these issues, overall the program has improved, however monitoring is ongoing.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 21.**    Guiding Light Home for Boys Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/14/16). (16-2179)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 22.**    Guiding Light Home for Boys Inc. Group Home Contract Compliance Monitoring Review (3/28/16). (16-2203)

**Michelle Newell, Second District, posed questions regarding placements and usage of this Group Home (GH), during the last reviews there were no Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or Probation**



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**Department placements.** Pamela Pease, Probation, reported that due to an existing contract there must be a review, and a few placements were made in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Kym Renner, DCFS, indicated that this GH is working on their accreditation, the unique circumstances remain monitored.

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - PROBATION REPORT](#)

- 23.**    Fields Comprehensive Youth Services Group Home Contract Compliance Review (3/16/16). (16-2180)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

- 24.**    Families for Children Foster Family Agency Fiscal Compliance Assessment and Contract Compliance Review (3/16/16). (16-2181)

**Emily Williams, Second District, made reference to page 4 of the Contract Compliance Review and posed questions regarding the procedure used to inform youth placements about their rights to refuse medication and/or services. Ms. Williams also requested details about the clothing allowance and whether it was unknown by the youth or they just did not receive it. Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported that information about the youth's rights is provided by the Foster Family Agency (FFA) and monitoring is ongoing. Also, clothing allowances were known just not received by the youth.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 25.**    Rancho San Antonio Boys' Home Contract Compliance Monitoring Review (3/17/16). (16-2183)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - PROBATION REPORT](#)

- 26.**    Counseling and Research Associates DBA Masada Homes Foster Family Agency Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/21/16). (16-2185)



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**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

27. Starshine Treatment Center Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/22/16). (16-2186)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

28. Seneca Family of Agencies Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (3/22/16). (16-2187)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

29. Seneca Family of Agencies Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/29/16). (16-2204)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

30. Walden Environment dba Family Services Foster Family Agency Quality Assurance Review (3/22/16). (16-2188)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

31. Walden Environment DBA Walden Family Services Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review and Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/25/16). (16-2195)

**Taylor Dudley, First District, posed questions regarding operational losses. Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that the allocation of funds to an agency may not be sufficient to cover all operational costs and will typically show an operational loss in their financial reports. Most agencies do participate in revenue creating activities such as fund raisers to supplement their expenses; this agency is not considered to be insolvent.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 32.**    Children's Group Home Ombudsman Semi-Annual Report - July 1 through December 31, 2015 (3/22/16). (16-2189)

**In response to questions posed by the Committee about reports of physical and sexual abuse, and the awareness process or a reach out program, Michelle Day, Auditor-Controller (A-C), reported that this information originally came in through the Child Protection Hotline Center; after careful and appropriate communication, these reports were deemed unsubstantiated. Ms. Day also reported that unannounced interviews are conducted frequently; currently, there are no complaints. Additionally, Ms. Day further reported that visits are conducted regularly, posters, brochures, and other items with printed telephone numbers such as calculators and flashlights are provided; the up and coming reviews will indicate more frequent visits since any issue reported is addressed.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - A-C REPORT](#)

- 33.**    Human Services Network DBA Youth Services Network Group Home Fiscal Compliance Assessment and Contract Compliance Review (3/22/16). (16-2190)

**In response to questions posed by the Committee regarding this Group Home (GH) being out of compliance in several areas, Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that they are in compliance, all findings were satisfied and the corrective action plan (CAP) was successfully implemented; compliance has been verified and the hold placed this year is removed. Kym Renner, DCFS, added that placements were not removed throughout the hold process.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 34.**    Childhelp Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (3/23/16).

(16-2191)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 35.** Optimist Boys' Home and Ranch Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review and Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/25/16). (16-2193)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 36.** Children's Institute Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review and Fiscal Assessment (3/25/16). (16-2194)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 37.** Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (3/25/16). (16-2196)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

- 38.** Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys Group Home Contract Compliance Review (3/25/16). (16-2200)

**Michelle Newell, Second District, posed questions regarding the replacement of all beds and new bedding. Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported that most in house platform beds were depreciated, all beds were replaced and new bedding purchased giving the spirit of equality so that all placements feel included. After careful and extensive review by two different DCFS staff this Group Home has no findings and they continue to make progress; the implementation of their extensive corrective action plan (CAP) was impressive and a follow up visit is scheduled.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

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39. Inner Circle Foster Family Agency Fiscal Compliance Assessment (3/25/16). (16-2197)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

40. Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services Group Home Contract Compliance Review (3/2/5/16). (16-2201)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

41. Children's Bureau of Southern California Foster Family Agency Fiscal Compliance Assessment and Contract Compliance Review (3/25/16) (16-2202)

**Taylor Dudley, First District, posed questions regarding the basic services provided such as health services and food. Diana Flaggs, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that research was conducted, the 2015-16 compliance review indicates full compliance by this Foster Family Agency (FFA), current findings include a Community Care Licensing (CCL) citation and has been satisfied by implementation of their Corrective Action Plan (CAP). This FFA is in transition and working on their accreditation towards Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).**

**Additionally, Ms. Flaggs explained that meetings regarding contract compliance reviews ensure the adherence to continued quality of services provided, and any violations are handled accordingly. Kym Renner, DCFS, added that excellent performance will be noted, and indicated that the contracting process is under review which will include implementation of the CCR requirements, and that placement permanency and service delivery will continue to be monitored.**

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

42. Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services - A Department of Children and Family Services Residentially Based Services Program Provider - Fiscal Compliance Review (3/28/16). (16-2316)

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**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - A-C REPORT](#)

- 43.**    Rosemary Children's Service Foster Family Agency Contract Compliance Review (3/31/16). (16-2205)

**On motion of Michelle Vega, seconded by Genie Chough, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DCFS REPORT](#)

### **III. UPDATES**

- 44.**    Update by DCFS and Probation on the number of children placed in non-contracted group homes and the status of implementing the recommendations included in the Auditor-Controller's November 2015 report, *Use of Non-Contracted Group homes by the Department of Children and Family Services* (Board Agenda Item 10, December 1, 2015). (16-3124)

**Kym Renner, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), provided a brief update regarding the oversight, implementation of policy, and increased monitoring of placement facilities that are not contracted with the County. Ms. Renner went on to explain that although these facilities are not subject to the same compliance reviews, due to court ordered placement and do not remove placement status, there are intentions to implement mechanisms that will comprise a unique administrative method that will increase efficiency with monthly reviews, strengthen the Departments' abilities for participation, allow for case worker recommendations, set policy and keep mindful towards the expected performances of responsibility; these actions are currently in motion, and a form recently developed as an extension of a contract to allow for unique monitoring and modifications is soon to be introduced.**

**Pamela Pease, Probation, went on to report that out of State placements have decreased from 97 to 81; 35 placements are out of County which include 7 in San Bernardino County, 1 in Riverside County, and 27 placements up North that were moved out of Regional Occupational Programs (ROP). There are 46 out of State which include placements in Utah, Pennsylvania, and Iowa; monthly out of State visits are in progress and will include increased oversight. Ms. Pease also reported about her research regarding these court appointed placements, looking for reasons as to placement and any activity patterns; overall, efforts and options were exhausted and out of State placements were the last resort.**

Additionally, Ms. Pease noted that conversations about education and cross communication are ideal tools towards improvements; unfortunately, there is no current data regarding any integration process of the released youth, or the length of stay for any category.

Karen Richardson, DCFS, added that some out of County placements in a non-contracted facility are also not licensed; there is speculation that due to the foster care rate, these facilities prefer to be non-contracted. As of November 2015, there are approximately 45 placements, 18 out of County, 19 within the County, and 3 out of State.

Robert Campbell, Auditor-Controller (A-C), reported that the original complaint came into the Child Protection Hotline Center regarding a fiscal impropriety by this agency; this went undetected since there were no placements, after notifying the Ombudsman, monthly reporting is in place. Mr. Campbell also reported that there are no additional findings, fiscal reports were reviewed, corrective action plans (CAP) implemented, DCFS is included in the outreach program, and several attempts were made to review non-contracted facilities records. Additionally, recommendations and collaborations with DCFS are ongoing; necessary implementation of executive management and a unique administration would assist the involvement with all review processes.

Leticia Torres-Ibarra reported that the Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) has been active for approximately 6 months; however, there are no substantial responses.

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

45. Matters not posted on the agenda (to be presented and placed on the agenda of a future meeting). (16-2211)

**Emily Williams, Second District, requested having updated information in advance prior to discussions regarding providers, i.e., contracting status, mergers, or outstanding repayments.**

46. Public Comment. (16-2602)

**No members of the public addressed the Committee on this item.**

47. Adjournment. (16-2603)

**There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.**